

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are now in this application. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 20 has been added.

A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-19 was mailed on March 21, 2003. Only claim 1 was amended after receiving the Notice of Allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the division unit is adopted to automatically perform binary divisions by using a shift operation after N information units are received, where N is some integral power of 2. Further, the word often called "automatically" was deleted in the last step of claim 1. Claim 20 has been added to include the feature of having the decision unit automatically set the transmission rate parameter.

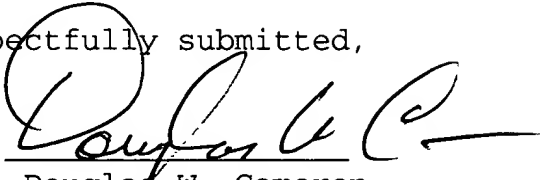
Formal drawings are enclosed in Response to a Notice Regarding Drawings mailed on August 4, 2003.

An Information Disclosure Statement is also enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper  
and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

Respectfully submitted,

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